

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel Claims 2, 10, 35 and 43 without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter.

Please amend Claims 1, 3, 6, 8, 9, 11, 14 to 23, 26 to 30, 33, 34, 36, 39, 41, 42, 44, 46 to 54, 57 to 61 and 64 as follows. The claims, as pending in the subject application, read as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A image processing apparatus comprising:
user information storing means for storing user information related to a seller or a buyer of the image processing apparatus; and
multiplexing means for multiplexing the stored user information to an output image to be output by the image processing apparatus,
wherein, said user information is obtained and stored in the storing means
when the image processing apparatus is sold through a network.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Currently Amended) An image processing apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising information setting means for setting [[a]] predetermined information related to the seller or the buyer of the image processing apparatus,[[;]]
wherein the multiplexing means multiplexes ~~for multiplexing~~ the predetermined information to [[an]] the output image.

4. (Original) An image processing apparatus according to claim 3, wherein the predetermined information is a public key certification.

5. (Original) An image processing apparatus according to claim 3, wherein the predetermined information is information to specify a objective use on a database.

6. (Currently Amended) An electronic commerce system which performs electronic commerce connecting one terminal with another terminal through a network, the system comprising:

information setting means for setting, in an image processing apparatus, information related to a seller or a buyer of the image processing apparatus obtained through the network; and

multiplexing means for multiplexing said information set by the information setting means to an output image to be output by the image processing apparatus.

7. (Original) An electronic commerce system according to claim 6, wherein the information set by the information setting means is a public key certification.

8. (Currently Amended) An electronic commerce system according to claim 6, wherein the information set by the setting means is information to specify an objective use on a database.

9. (Currently Amended) An image processing method, comprising the steps of:

a user information storing step for storing, in an image processing apparatus, user information related to a seller or a buyer of [[an]] the image processing apparatus; and

a multiplexing step for the image processing apparatus to multiplex[[ing]] the stored user information to an output image to be output by the image processing apparatus,

wherein said user information is obtained and stored in the storing step when the image processing apparatus is sold through a network.

10. (Canceled)

11. (Currently Amended) An image processing method according to claim 9, further comprising[[,]] an information setting step for setting [[a]] predetermined information related to the seller or the buyer of the image processing apparatus,[[;]]

wherein the multiplexing step ~~is for multiplexing~~ multiplexes the predetermined information to [[an]] the output image.

12. (Original) An image processing method according to claim 11, wherein the predetermined information is a public key certification.

13. (Original) An image processing method according to claim 11, wherein the predetermined information is information to specify a objective use on a database.

14. (Currently Amended) An electronic commerce method which performs electronic commerce connecting one terminal with another terminal through a network, the method comprising the steps of:

an information setting step for of setting, in an image processing apparatus,
information related to a seller or a buyer of the image processing apparatus obtained through the network; and

a multiplexing step for of the image processing apparatus multiplexing said information set by the information setting step to ~~information of~~ an output image to be output by the image processing apparatus.

15. (Currently Amended) An electronic commerce method according to claim 14, wherein the information set in the information setting step is a public key certification.

16. (Currently Amended) An electronic commerce method according to claim 14, wherein the set information is information to specify a objective use on a database.

17. (Currently Amended) A computer program ~~product, comprising~~ stored on a computer readable medium ~~having computer program codes,~~ the program for executing image processing on an image processing apparatus, said ~~product including~~ program comprising the steps of:

a user information storing procedure codes for step of storing, in an image processing apparatus, user information related to a seller or a buyer of the image processing apparatus; and

a multiplexing procedure codes for step of multiplexing the stored user information to an output image to be output by the image processing apparatus,

wherein, said user information is obtained and stored in the storing step when the image processing apparatus is sold through a network.

18. (Currently Amended) A computer program product, comprising stored on a computer readable medium, having computer program codes which the program for performing an electronic commerce through a network system connecting one terminal with another terminal through a network, the computer program product comprising the steps of:

an information setting procedure codes for step of setting, in an image processing apparatus, information related to a seller or a buyer of the image processing apparatus obtained through the network; and

a multiplexing procedure codes for step of multiplexing said information set by the information setting means to information of an output image to be output by the image processing apparatus.

19. (Currently Amended) An image processing method for an image processing apparatus, comprising the steps of:

a user information storing step for of storing, in the image processing apparatus, user information related to a seller or a buyer of the image processing apparatus;
and

a multiplexing step for of the image processing apparatus multiplexing the stored user information to an output image to be output by the image processing apparatus,

wherein, the user information is obtained and stored in the storing step when the image processing apparatus is sold through a network.

20. (Currently Amended) An image processing method according to claim 19, wherein the user information ~~includes~~ comprises a public key certification, ~~or the an~~ account number of the buyer, ~~or the credit card~~ information of the buyer[[s]] ~~credit card~~.

21. (Currently Amended) An image processing method according to claim 19, wherein the user information ~~includes~~ comprises information of the seller, ~~or~~ information of a date of sale, or information of a store selling the image processing apparatus:

22. (Currently Amended) An image processing method according to claim 19, wherein the user information is stored ~~according as~~ when a driver of the image processing apparatus is downloaded or is installed.

23. (Currently Amended) An image processing method according to claim 19, wherein the multiplexing is performed by using a digital watermark.

24. (Original) An image processing method according to claim 19, wherein the digital watermark is added in a spatial area of the output image.

25. (Original) An image processing method according to claim 19, wherein the digital watermark is added in a frequency area of the output image.

26. (Currently Amended) An image processing method for a image processing apparatus, comprising the steps of:

a user information receiving step for the image processing apparatus receiving user information related to a seller or a buyer of an image processing product from the image processing product; and

a multiplexing step for the image processing apparatus to multiplex[[ing]] the received user information to an output image to be output by the image processing apparatus,

wherein, said user information is received by the image processing apparatus when the image processing product is sold through a network.

27. (Currently Amended) An image processing method according to claim 26, wherein the user information ~~includes~~ comprises a public key certification, ~~or the an~~ account number of the buyer, ~~or the~~ credit card information of the buyer[['s]] ~~credit card~~.

28. (Currently Amended) An image processing method according to claim 26, wherein the user information ~~includes~~ comprises information of the seller, or

information of a date of sale, or information of a store selling the image processing apparatus.

29. (Currently Amended) An image processing method according to claim 26, wherein the user information is ~~stored according as~~ received when a driver of the image processing apparatus is downloaded or is installed.

30. (Currently Amended) An image processing method according to claim 26, wherein the multiplexing is performed by using a digital watermark.

31. (Original) An image processing method according to claim 26, wherein the digital watermark is added in a spatial area of the output image.

32. (Original) An image processing method according to claim 26, wherein the digital watermark is added in a frequency area of the output image.

33. (Currently Amended) An image processing method according to claim 26, wherein the image processing product ~~includes~~ comprises a personal computer, ~~or a~~ scanner, or an image processing software.

34. (Currently Amended) An image processing apparatus comprising:
a memory storing user information related to a seller or a buyer of the image processing apparatus; and

a controller multiplexing the stored user information to an output image to be output by the image processing apparatus,

wherein, said user information is obtained and stored in the memory when the image processing apparatus is sold through a network.

35. (Canceled)

36. (Currently Amended) An image processing apparatus according to claim 34, further comprising a processor setting [[a]] predetermined information related to the seller or the buyer of the image processing apparatus,[[;]]

wherein the controller ~~multiplexing~~ multiplexes the predetermined information to [[an]] the output image.

37. (Original) An image processing apparatus according to claim 36, wherein the predetermined information is a public key certification.

38. (Original) An image processing apparatus according to claim 36, wherein the predetermined information is information to specify an objective use on a database.

39. (Currently Amended) An electronic commerce system which performs electronic commerce connecting one terminal with another terminal through a network, the system comprising:

a processor setting, in an image processing apparatus, information related to a seller or a buyer of the image processing apparatus obtained through the network; and a controller multiplexing said information set by the processor to an output image to be output by the image processing apparatus.

40. (Original) An electronic commerce system according to claim 39, wherein the information set by the processor is a public key certification.

41. (Currently Amended) An electronic commerce system according to claim 39, wherein the set information is information to specify an objective use on a database.

42. (Currently Amended) An image processing method, comprising the steps of:

storing, in an image processing apparatus, user information related to a seller or a buyer of ~~[[an]]~~ the image processing apparatus; and multiplexing the stored user information to an output image to be output by the image processing apparatus,
wherein, said user information is obtained and stored in the storing step when the image processing apparatus is sold through a network.

43. (Canceled)

44. (Currently Amended) An image processing method according to claim 42, further comprising setting ~~[[a]]~~ predetermined information related to the seller or the buyer of the image processing apparatus, ~~[[;]]~~

wherein the ~~multiplexing process is multiplexing the~~ predetermined information is multiplexed to ~~[[an]]~~ the output image.

45. (Original) An image processing method according to claim 44., wherein the predetermined information is a public key certification.

46. (Currently Amended) An image processing method according to claim 44, wherein the predetermined information is information to specify an objective use on a database.

47. (Currently Amended) An electronic commerce method which performs electronic commerce connecting one terminal with another terminal through a network, the method comprising the steps of:

setting, in an image processing apparatus, information related to a seller or a buyer of the image processing apparatus obtained through the network; and

multiplexing said information set by the setting to ~~information of~~ an output image to be output by the image processing apparatus.

48. (Currently Amended) An electronic commerce method according to claim 47, wherein the ~~information set the information setting process~~ is a public key certification.

49. (Currently Amended) An electronic commerce method according to claim 47, wherein the set information is information to specify an objective use on a database.

50. (Currently Amended) An image processing method for an image processing apparatus, comprising the steps of:

storing, in the image processing apparatus, user information related to a seller or a buyer of the image processing apparatus; and

multiplexing the stored user information to an output image to be output by the image processing apparatus,

wherein, said user information is obtained and stored in the storing step when the image processing apparatus is sold through a network.

51. (Currently Amended) An image processing method according to claim 50, wherein the user information ~~includes~~ comprises a public key certification, ~~or the an~~ an account number of the buyer, ~~or the credit card~~ information of the buyer[[s]] ~~credit card~~.

52. (Currently Amended) An image processing method according to claim 50, wherein the user information ~~includes~~ comprises information of the seller, ~~or~~ information of a date of sale, or information of a store selling the image processing apparatus.

53. (Currently Amended) An image processing method according to claim 50, wherein the user information is stored ~~according as~~ when a driver of the image processing apparatus is downloaded or is installed.

54. (Currently Amended) An image processing method according to claim 50, wherein the multiplexing is performed by using a digital watermark.

55. (Original) An image processing method according to claim 54, wherein the digital watermark is added in a spatial area of the output image.

56. (Original) An image processing method according to claim 54, wherein the digital watermark is added in a frequency area of the output image.

57. (Currently Amended) An image processing method for an image processing apparatus, comprising the steps of:

receiving, by the image processing apparatus, user information related to a seller or a buyer of an image processing product from the image processing product; and

multiplexing the received user information to an output image to be output by the image processing apparatus,

wherein, said user information is received when the image processing apparatus is sold through a network.

58. (Currently Amended) An image processing method according to claim 57, wherein the user information ~~includes~~ comprises a public key certification, ~~or the an~~ account number of the buyer, ~~or the~~ credit card information of the buyer~~[[s]]~~ ~~credit card~~.

59. (Currently Amended) An image processing method according to claim 57, wherein the user information ~~includes~~ comprises information of the seller, ~~or~~ information of a date of sale, ~~or information of~~ a store selling the image processing apparatus.

60. (Currently Amended) An image processing method according to claim 57, wherein the user information is ~~stored according as~~ received when a driver of the image processing apparatus is downloaded or is installed.

61. (Currently Amended) An image processing method according to claim 57, wherein the multiplexing is performed by using a digital watermark.

62. (Original) An image processing method according to claim 61, wherein the digital watermark is added in a spatial area of the output image.

63. (Original) An image processing method according to claim 61, wherein the digital watermark is added in a frequency area of the output image.

64. (Currently Amended) An image processing method according to claim 57, wherein the image processing product ~~includes~~ comprises a personal computer, ~~or~~ a scanner, or an image processing software.